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SUMMARY OF THE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PRESS

(24-30 December 1959)

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FOREWORD

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(24-30 December 1959)

Preface

The present summary is a report on the economic, political, military and sociological developments in Bulgaria covering all available newspapers of the Bulgarian provincial press from 24-30 December 1959. All items, whether summaries or condensations or partial translations, reflect the specific and contextual meaning of the original text.

During this week all newspapers carry Todor Zhivkov's reply to the questioning of the correspondent of the Greek newspaper Avgi in Sofia. They also carry the text of the decree issued by the Central Committee of the BCP and the Council of Ministers on improvements in the wage payment system and increases for engineering and technical workers.

Appendix A of this summary lists graphic materials.

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I. ECONOMIC

A. Manufacturing Industries

In ten years the "K. E. Voroshilov" Low Tension Appliance Plant (Slabotokov zavod "K. E. Voroshilov") produced a total of 623,000 radio receivers. In 1950, when the plant began operation, 995 sets were produced, while in 1959, 150,000 were turned out. Ten years ago the plant produced about 1,000 automatic telephone switchboards. This year the plant has produced 24,000. Of these, 20,000 were for export to Czechoslovakia, from which such switchboards were recently imported. High quality medical diagnostic and treatment apparatus produced by the "Voroshilov" Plant are entirely adequate for the needs of Bulgarian medical institutions. The plant also produces X-ray machinery. Many of the Bulgarian engineers, technicians and workers at the plant were sent to the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary for special work. The products of the plant are finding an increasingly broad market in other countries -- the Chinese People's Republic, Indonesia, the United Arab Republic, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Czechoslovakia, etc. In 1959, the plant worked on a 12 channel television receiver of the "Opera" type, which is to be marketed in 1960. Also, a prototype for the first Bulgarian transistor radio receiver was developed. (Pirinsko Delo, Blagoevgrad, 30 December 1959, page 2)

The 1960 plan for the "Elprom" State Industrial Enterprise (DIP "Elprom") involves a 42% increase over that for 1959. Thus far the enterprises have produced a total of 28,000 washing machines. The 1960 plan calls for 36,000. The enterprise will also produce an iron of the "Kometa" type, an automatic water heater, boilers with a capacity of 120 liters, metal radiators, industrial resistance furnaces for non-ferrous metals, and laboratory furnaces capable of up to 1,500 C. The factory will produce 100 kw heaters for industrial enterprises, 50 kw welding tools for precision welding operations, bakery ovens with a capacity of 9,000 loaves per day, etc. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 26 December 1959, page 1)

B. Chemical Industry

A new nitrogen fertilizer plant is to be built at Kalitinovo village in Stara Zagora Okrug. It will be located the lignite coal mines of the "Maritsa-Iztok" coal basin. Electricity will be supplied by the "Maritsa-Iztok" Thermoelectric Power Plant. Water for the plant will come from the "Georgi Dimitrov" Dam by means of an irrigation canal running through the city of Stara Zagora. The plant is to be located

7-8 km to the east of the city, and will cover an area of 1,100 decares. It is to be built according to Soviet blueprints, and with the help of Soviet experts. The first stage of the plant is planned for completion at the end of 1962, and the second during 1963. Apart from fertilizers, the plant is also expected to produce 15,000 t of sulphur a year. (Dimitrovgradska Pravda, Dimitrovgrad, 24 December 1959, page 3)

In 1959, the "Stalin" Chemical Combine (Khimkombinat "Stalin") produced 195,600 tons of nitrogen fertilizers and 150,000 tons of superphosphate fertilizers. (Dimitrovgradska Pravda, Dimitrovgrad, 24 December 1959, page 1)

C. Non-Ferrous Metallurgy

Two years ago geologists discovered phosphorites in the area between Mogila and Kaspichan Villages. This ore is processed by the "Fosfor" Mining Enterprise at the Kaspichan Railroad Station, and the ore is found almost at ground surface. The first quantities of Bulgarian phosphorites have already been mined. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 29 December 1959, page 1)

D. Fuels and Power

Work has been begun on the "Filipov Most" Hydrojunction. The site lies some 30 km north of Krichim village at the point where the Vucha River breaks through the Rhodope Mountain rocks. The "Dospat-Devin-Krichim" Cascade will be the largest site in Bulgaria providing hydraulic energy. It will comprise seven dams, five channels, one power pumping station and seven electric power plants. These latter will have a total power of 440,000 kw and will produce more than 1,000,000,000 kwh of electric energy annually. This represents 400% of the electric energy produced in Bulgaria in 1939. The "Filipov Most" Hydrojunction, which has only been begun by 1960, is only a section of the great cascade. Its dam wall will be 400 meters long and 144 meters high. The lake it will form will hold 218,000,000 cu meters of water, and will be 15 km in length. More than 2,000 workers will be engaged in its building in 1960. (Otechestven Glas, Plovdiv, 27 December 1959)

E. Consumer Goods, Food Industry and Domestic Trade

Serious financial weaknesses are being allowed by a large percentage of the industrial and commercial enterprises in Ruse Okrug. On 22 December 1959 the "Georgi Dimitrov" State Machine Building Plant (DMZ "Georgi

Dimitrov") had overdue loan payments totaling 1.9 million leva, and was 11.2 million leva in arrears in the fulfillment of its commitments. A similar situation prevails in many other enterprises and combines. The total payments in arrears in the okrug amount to 72.0 million leva, and financial commitments in arrears reach a total of 41.5 million leva. This means that funds in the amount of 113.6 million leva are not in circulation. This sum could build and equip a plant as large as the "Georgi Dimitrov" State Machine Building Plant.

These debts are to a large degree due to the unjustifiable surplus and materials as well as produce being held by enterprises. Those which have the greatest surpluses are those which owe the most money. The reasons for the accumulation of surpluses and material backlog of completed products by various industrial enterprises vary. Some fail to fulfill their production plans in volume and variety, and thus needed materials remain unused in warehouses. Other enterprises have fulfilled their plans, but still accumulate materials and finished produce resulting in serious financial problems. This can occur when the enterprise managers fail to take efficient measures to coordinate production plans with sales plans. Some others find themselves in financial difficulties because they stock large amounts of semi-completed products in their warehouses. Still others owe substantial funds to the railroads and other government administrations on various counts. A large number of the commercial organizations are also in arrears because they have failed to fulfill their goods turnover plans. Some commercial organizations are in financial difficulty because they purchase goods which they cannot resell.

On the other hand, there is a demand for certain types of goods in short supply which are in plentiful supply in other okrugs. This is due to a laxity on the part of certain commercial workers who do not keep in touch with consumer demand. (Dunavska Pravda, Ruse, 26 December 1959, page 3)

Vessels docking at Varna port include: the "D. Kondov," bringing 722 tons of steel for ships, various types of tubing, and ferromanganese from the USSR; the Soviet vessel "Smela," bringing 350 tons of wool, rubber and asbestos from Odessa -- this was the 16th Soviet vessel docking in Varna in December. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 24 December 1959, page 1)

II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

A. Party Educational Courses

More than 18,000 communists and non-party members are attending party educational courses in Khaskovo Okrug. The teaching personnel is 980 persons, 800 of whom are high school or university graduates. The others have had many years of experience. (Khaskovska Tribuna, Khas'kovo, 24 December 1959, page 1)

III. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

A. Stalin's Birth Anniversary

"At its XX Congress, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union criticized and condemned the errors committed by Stalin in connection with the personality cult permitted during the later years of his life. At the same time, the CPSU emphasized that his shortcomings were not characteristic of most of his life. The negative phenomena in state and party life as regards certain of his personal qualities hindered the development of Soviet society, however, and did great damage to it. But they could not and did not change the socialist nature of the Soviet regime. The policy which the party pursued was correct, and the Soviet state preserved its profoundly democratic nature." (Sofiyska Pravda, 24 December 1959, Sofia, page 3)

On 19 December 1959, the personnel of the "Stalin" Chemical Combine (Khimkombinat "Stalin") celebrated the 80th anniversary of Stalin's birth. Georgi Gradev, secretary of the party committee at the combine, spoke on Stalin's life and the good he did for the working class and Bulgarian working people. (Dimitrovgradska Pravda, Dimitrovgrad, 24 December 1959, page 1)

B. Crime

On 25 December the Burgas City People's Soviet held its Sixth Regular Session.

A talk on crime and violations of the law in Burgas was delivered by Doncho Georgiev, Prosecutor. He stressed the fact that crime has decreased by 24% in 1959 as compared to 1958. "However, there are still frequent cases in which constitutional laws are being violated by certain citizens and officials, and these cases are being ignored. The crime situation in the city, although a decrease is indicated, gives us no grounds for complacency. The battle to decrease juvenile delinquency is still inadequate."

There are many shortcomings in the work of the Burgas Obshtina People's Soviet. Many of the obshtina people's councillors fail to attend the City People's Soviet regularly, and fulfill only their formal obligations. The work of the soviet people's committees is unsatisfactory, as well. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 27 December 1959, page 1)

C. Revolutionary Vigilance

A village meeting was held in Yankovo. More than 200 cooperative farmers and young people attended. An address was given by Metodi Stoev, from the Kolarovgrad Okrug Administration of the Ministry of the Interior. He spoke on "constant revolutionary vigilance."

"The speaker cited cases of inimical acts in the village and okrug, and activities on the part of certain young people which are incompatible with communist morality." (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 26 December 1959, page 2)

Appendix A

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Portrait of Ivan Voyvodov, Plovdiv City Prosecutor. (Otechestven Glas, Plovdiv, 27 December 1959, page 1)

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